

REMARKS

Claims 8 to 24 are pending.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Applicants thank Examiner for indicating that claims 11, 18 to 20 and 22 to 24 contain allowable subject matter.

Claims 8, 9 and 16 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting as unpatentable over claims 9, 11, 15 and 17 of U.S. Patent Application No. 10/522,296 ("Grill et al."), and claims 10, 12 to 15, 17 and 21 were rejected on the ground of nonstatutory double patenting as unpatentable over claims 9, 11, 15 and 17 of Grill et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,012,529 ("Klatt").

As an initial matter, U.S. Patent No. 7,012,529 was issued to Sajkowsky, not to Klatt, and does not relate to the subject matter of claims 10, 12 to 15, 17 and 21 of the present Application. In addition, as U.S. Patent No. 4,510,906 to Alfred Klatt is listed in the Notice of References Cited attached to the present Final Office Action, Applicants will assume that the Examiner meant to cite U.S. Patent No. 4,510,906 as the secondary reference in the present double patenting rejection of claims 10, 12 to 15, 17 and 21.

Although Applicants may not agree with the merits of the above-mentioned double patenting rejections, to facilitate matters, Applicants are submitting a properly executed Terminal Disclaimer with this response. Accordingly, withdrawal of the double patenting rejections is respectfully requested.

Claims 11, 18 to 20 and 22 to 24 were objected to as being dependent from a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. In response, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 11, 22, 23 and 24 and claims 18 to 20 need not be written in independent form to include all of the features of their respective base claims 8 and 16, since the rejections of claims 8 and 16 have been obviated by the Terminal Disclaimer accompanying this response. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

In summary, it is respectfully submitted that all of claims 8 to 24 are allowable for the foregoing reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is therefore respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable and it is respectfully requested that the rejections (and any objections) be withdrawn. All issues raised by the Examiner having been addressed, an early and favorable action on the merits is respectfully requested.

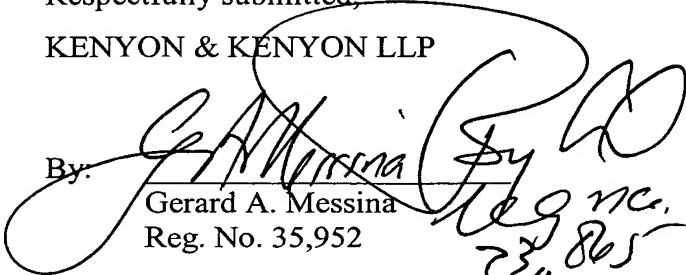
Respectfully submitted,

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